

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

The City Council of the City of Leon Valley, Texas, met on the 9th day of September 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leon Valley City Council Chambers, at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 700 P.M.

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Riley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked that the minutes reflect that all members of Council were present: Manea, Reyna, Baldrige, Dean, and Nelson.

City Manager Lambert, City Secretary Feutz, Fire Chief Irwin, and City Accountant Wallace were also present.

Mayor Riley asked Council and the assembled audience to join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens to be heard and time for objections to the Consent Agenda.

There was no Consent Agenda for this meeting. Mayor Riley asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Council. Hearing no one, Mayor Riley proceeded with the Regular Agenda.

Regular Agenda

Second Public hearing on the proposed 2008 tax rate of \$.527400 per \$100 valuation, which is the same tax rate as last year (Lambert).

Mayor Riley announced that this was the second public hearing to hear from the public on the proposed 2008 tax rate of \$0.527400.

City Manager Lambert reviewed the information on the proposed 2008 tax rate indicating that the property tax code requires the City to conduct the two public hearings before Council votes on the proposed tax rate. He provided a brief review of how the increased tax would affect the average home valued at \$122,405 by \$28.54 annually. He presented information on the effective tax rate and the rollback tax rate for Council and the audience. Mr. Lambert stated that the proposed 2008 tax rate is 2.344099%, or \$0.012135, over the 2008 effective tax rate.

Mayor Riley opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. and invited anyone in the audience to come forward to speak on the tax rate. Hearing no one, she closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Riley announced that the vote by City Council on the proposed 2008 tax rate would be held on September 16, 2008 at the City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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Discussion Agenda

Discussion on installation of concrete center median on Wurzbach Road (Lambert).

City Manager Lambert presented information for Council discussion on using raised curbs, landscaped centers as a means to address the traffic issues on Wurzbach Road, between Evers and Bandera Roads, and to help beautify the street. He stated that estimates for the raised curb structures on the roadway are \$200,000 for the structures, \$25,000 for landscaping and watering the planted areas, and \$25,000 for the engineering fees to design the project and specs so that the City can go out for formal bids. He stated that the City could pursue a grant from the Metropolitan Planning Organization as an offsite improvement rather than fund the program from the General Fund, but he informed Council that engineering fees would be spent to have the designs drawn for the grant application.

Council discussion included keeping Ancira informed of the City's plan and perhaps they can help with the project, other similar types of projects being used for traffic calming in San Antonio along Blanco Road, how an attractive main artery could help with the City's goals toward improving the City's image, and what other components (hike and bike trails) could be added to the project to increase chances of getting grant funding.

Resident Al Uvietta addressed Council stating that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has been invited to the City with Wurzbach Road as a connector and before the Wurzbach Road lanes are altered, we may have to consider if it will also impact future BRT stops on Wurzbach Road.

City Manager Lambert informed Council that staff is working on three grants to submit to the MPO that all have deadlines December 1, 2008 and some will require City-matching funds; therefore, staff will return to Council seeking formal approval to move forward with the grant applications at a later date.

Discussion and presentation by City Park Commission on fitness trail for seniors and movie night in the park activities (City Park Commission).

City Park Commission Chair Bert Thomas reported to Council that the Park Commission was in favor of both the seniors' fitness trail and movie night in the park, but offered alternatives to original plans for these activities.

Movie Night. Mr. Thomas reported the Commission proposes having monthly movie nights in Spring and Fall outside of the Community Center beginning at 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. He stated that electrical service was available at the center and if inclement weather occurred, the event could be moved into the Community Center. He stated parking was more accessible at the Community Center and more accessible for seniors and those with physical challenges.

Councilmembers discussed other options for the movie nights and after discussion asked that an estimated budget be presented for the project and they asked if any of the Hotel/Motel tax or if future Economic Development Sales Tax could be used for this community project.

Fitness Trail for Seniors. Park Commission Chair Thomas reported on a Commission - proposed fitness trail to have about ten stations in the area of the Community and Conference

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Centers. He provided booklets describing the 3-sided stations that would be accessible for those in walkers and wheelchairs and would have the Library at one end of the fitness trail and the Community Center at the other end of the trail. He expressed concerns that having a seniors' fitness trail in the park would be far from parking areas making it difficult for the intended users to access. He also expressed his concerns that some seniors have agility or balance issues and are unsteady on their feet in the current park trail system with park users on bikes, with strollers, children and joggers. He stated that if the fitness trail is located in the front of the Community and Conference Centers, more seniors will safely be able to use the station. Mr. Thomas stated that each unit will cost approximately \$3,000 with a \$2,000 concrete pad needed under each station. He estimated that the project will cost between \$50,000 - \$60,000. He recommended that a fund be setup for "Friends of the Park, and donations be solicited with large donors receiving plaques on the stations. Mr. Thomas stated that with the proposed fitness trail for seniors and with the community center already being a center for seniors, it will make that area a city square for senior citizens.

Council discussed options for funding the project from grants or using moneys from developers of the Ridge Subdivision and the Milmo Subdivisions paid to the City in lieu of donating park land. City Manager Lambert stated that he would look into using park funds for the project. Councilmembers expressed their interest in more information for this project and all thanked the Park Commission for their recommendations.

City Manager's report (Lambert).

City Manager provided an update on Hurricane Ike projections and stated that the City may have to activate the Emergency Operations Center but he will make that call by Thursday or Friday of this week. He handed out an update from the Fire Chief that informed Council that members of the Leon Valley Fire Department are already assisting with staging and may assist with some evacuation activities.

City Manager Lambert provided a sample resolution that Council may wish to consider regarding what could be put on the City's online community calendar which was provided by the City Attorney's office. He stated that the issue will be brought back before Council in the future for formal action.

Mr. Lambert announced that the City Accountant, Vickie Wallace, had again been awarded the certificate of achievement for financial accounting from the GFOA.

Citizens to be heard.

Mayor Riley asked if anyone in the audience wished to address Council. Hearing no one, Mayor Riley asked for announcements from Councilmembers.

Announcements by Councilmembers and Mayor.

Councilmember Baldrige announced that the Forest Oaks Garden Club is holding a program on September 10, 2008 on attracting birds to the backyard from 1-3 p.m. and she invited everyone to attend. She also stated that she was distressed over hearing the negative press story on television the night before in regards to the Superfund Site and the EPA's work on

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water contamination in Leon Valley.

Councilman Reyna complimented those who worked on the Rabies Clinic with the City's Veterinarian, Dr. Edmund Meier.

Councilmember Dean announced that more fenced pens have been completed at the clinic and complimented Dr. Meier's pro-Leon Valley attitude.

Mayor Riley announced that EPA Project Manager for the Leon Valley Site, Chris Villarreal gave a presentation to the Edwards Aquifer Authority and provided clarification for residents who had called the City worried about water contamination. She reminded everyone that the City's public water supply is being now tested more frequently than required. Monthly our wells are tested to insure that our water is not showing any harmful chemical levels. She also clarified for the record that Leon Valley and HEB were partnering to encourage **alternatives** to plastic shopping bags, not banning plastic bags.

Mayor Riley reminded everyone about the Fall Clean Up which starts on Monday, September 15th and complimented everyone involved with the Grandparent's Day concert. She also announced that she had received a lovely thank you note from a resident who wrote to praise the excellent service provided by our Police and Fire Department personnel with recent assistance given her husband.

Adjourn.

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Reyna, seconded by Councilmember Dean, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, Mayor Riley announced the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Chris Riley
Mayor

Marie Feutz
City Secretary

Approved by City Council unanimous vote at the September 16, 2008 Regular City Council meeting.